(a) whether the Postal Department is taking steps for speedy disposal of parcles, money orders and letters; and

(b) if so, the progress made as on date and by when these services are expected to be modernized in comparisons to the private courier service providers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Department of Posts is making consistent efforts to modernize postal services including parcel service, money order service and letter mail service.

A separate parcel devision was set up in March, 2005 to provide a customer oriented approach with focus on management of all percel products and services including international parcels.

To improve the quality of percel services, the Department under the 10th Five Year Plan, launched a scheme of setting up of Parcel Post Centres.

A scheme of Establishment of International Parcel Post Hubs is being implemented under the 10th Five Year Plan. Mumbai Foreign Post Office, Delhi Foreign Post Office and Kochi Sub Foreign Post Office have been undertaken in this project.

The Department of Posts has recently introduced an Instant Money Order (IMO) service in some selected cities, whereby money transfer can be effected instantly.

Registered letters and high value money orders are being processed through Computerized Registration Centres, with a view to modernize the letter mail registration processing. As on date, 34 offices have been computerized.

Automated mail processing centres have been set up at Mumbai and Chennai for processing of ordinary letter mail.

Expansion of CDMA based network

1650. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MTNL and BSNL are not expanding their CDMA based network;

(b) if so, whether these companies are having unused CDMA spectrum;

(c) if so, whether Government are losing revenue because of non-use of spectrum and if so, how much;

(d) whether Government would direct MTNL and BSNL to vacate unused spectrum; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) These companies are not having unused CDMA spectrum which is allotted as per policy of Department of Telecommunications based on usage.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise in view of (b) above.

Setting up of Mail Regulatory Authority of India

1651. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are seriously thinking of setting up of a Mail Regulatory Authority of India to have some control over the private courier services in the country;

(b) whether public opinion and the opinion from the experts have been taken in this respect;

(c) if so, the details of the views expressed by public representatives, experts and others in this regard;

(d) whether any consultation with the courier industry has ben held; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the consultation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) There is a proposal from the Department of